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Can you identify any of these folks in
their 3 piece suits and big hats?

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Montgomery County
Historical Society
HERALD



VOLUME 19 NO. 4

MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA

DECEMBER 2011

MEN, MEASURES,
AND MEMORIES



William T. Sheehan,
Editor
Montgomery
Advertiser
1913 - 1928

ENTHUSIASM FOR OUR EARLY HISTORY

April 7, 1928

By William T. Sheehan

I have been persuaded by the manifestations and expressions of interest aroused by the early historical articles in this column, that a great many people are intensely interested in the early story of the city and county. On account of this, and its value to the younger generation, I am persuaded to give a reprint of a letter which tells of the actual founding of the city of Montgomery. This is an unusual bit of history, and is not generally known.

For the benefit of the school children who have manifested so much enthusiasm for these sketches, I am going to give the personal account of Mr. J. G. Klinck, the first man to build a house in Montgomery and the first merchant of the city. The tools for teaching state history are very limited and imperfect. In my time, however, no attempt was made to instruct school children in Alabama state history. Then, as now, the pupil was wearied of the subject of history, by having to study accounts of the middle age crusades of Peter the Hermit, Richard Couer de Lion, the various dynasties that ruled with annals and dates. In the hope of appealing to the enthusiasm of the young students, I am dividing some of the rare history that I have run across in my reading and professional work. This chapter of the detail of the founding of Montgomery, should appear [appeal] especially

to the students - boys and girls - who live [lived] in the city 109 years after it was founded. This bit of history was preserved through the efforts of Johnson J. Hooper.

In 1856 he wrote a letter of request to Mr. Klinck, who was then living in Tennessee, asking him to set down the facts he knew about the founding of Montgomery. Mr. Klinck’s reply was published in the *Montgomery Mail*, which was later merged with *The Advertiser*. It was published on November 24, 1858.

“LET FUTURE AGES TELL THE TALE”

Mr. Klinck says in his letter: “Having lately read some sketches of the Creek Indians, in the early history of Alabama, from the pen of the well-remembered Gen. Tom Woodward, I have dared to presume that a few facts in relation to the first settlement of your town will not prove uninteresting to some of your readers. At the time of the great influx of emigration from the states, in the early part of 1817, I left the old South State, with the intention of proceeding to Fort Claiborne, but after a tedious journey of 22 days, I crossed Line Creek and made a halt at the fork of the road laeding [leading] to Fort Jackson, and occupied a tenement belonging to Mr. Evans, who was then keeping

public house. One hundred yards from this spot and on the federal road leading to Claiborne, was the firm of Meigs and Mitchell, and one mile on this road, east on Milly's Creek, was James Powers, who did a large business in groceries and provisions; further east was Major Flanagan (small trader) then Dame Arterberry, and Denton, or Dent, who occupied the land and owned the ferry on Line Creek. With myself, the above were the only traders nearer than Fort Jackson. While here, and immediately after the first land sales in Milledgeville, the same summer, Mr. Andrew Dexter, of Massachusetts, and a Mr. Spears of Oglethorpe county, Gr.,[Ga.] came to Mr. Evans, both being attacked with bilious fever (Dexter slightly) -they were in route to view their purchases at the time. Mr. Spears occupied a bed in the same room in which I had my goods, and never left it until his death, which was about two weeks after his arrival. He was prescribed for by an eminent physician (Dr. Dabuy from Virginia), and had every attention paid him by Mr. Dexter and the family of Mr. Evans.

SOME EARLY SETTLERS

"After this occurrence, Dexter proceeded to examine his purchase, and soon returned, being much flattered with the prospect of its advantages for a town site, and its central position for the court house, when the county became subdivided. He communicated all of his plans to me - that we were jointly to us [use] our influence to drawing all the traders to that place intended for the town, which would necessarily draw the trade to that point, except from those on the road near Line Creek. I advised him

to visit J. C. Farley, Carpenter and Harris, Laprade, (traders) and Dr. Morrow, a practicing physician, offer each a lot gratuitous, and proceed immediately to layoff the town.

"My then locality was a unenviable one, so I immediately removed my goods to James Vivers who lived on the Bluff above the intended town. Dexter soon obtained the services of a Mr. Hall, surveyor, who laid off the town. As soon after this as I could have the center pointed out to me, I selected my lot, which was a privilege of first choice, and to name the place, which I called New Philadelphia and the name was never changed until 1819. I employed a Mr. Bell to build me a cabin - and in showing him where, we found on the corner a post of black oak in the way of laying the ground sill, when I immediately seized the axe and felled it, remarking to Bell, 'this is the first tree -- future ages will tell the tale.' The house was built, and a well dug close by, at the junction of Market and Pearl street. (Editor's note - now Dexter avenue and Hull street),

"Dexter, before I could occupy the house, wishing to place it upon a more elevated portion of the quarter section, employed Mr. John Blackwell to resurvey it, which he did, and I took my first choice again, built another cabin and occupied it. After I built the first, and a little before I occupied the last, J. C. Farley had a frame store house put up which was weather-boarded with clapboards, but never occupied until after I had completed and was doing business in my second tenement.

"Next came Carpenter and Harris, John Falconer, John Goldthwaite, Eades, Dr. Gullett, James Vickers, Squire Loftin, John Hewell, Teague - the first five were merchandiz-

ing. During this time the Scott and Bibb company, as it was called, from Milledgeville, in Georgia, had bought largely of lands, and among others the fraction that was situated on the bluff, between Dexter's quarter section and the river, for which they were to pay, as I understood, \$50 per acre - if so, it accounts for their having tried to build a town below the then New Philadelphia, called Alabama, to rival the former or possibly its growth; but it was not a go, as all the traders were in New Philadelphia, with the solitary exception of a man by the name of Campbell, with a few goods, among a few private families; they being his only customers, he soon abdicated, either for want of goods or patronage.

OLD COURT HOUSE CONTROVERSY

"The business of locating a site for a court house came and commissioners were appointed for that purpose. Public opinion had given the court house to New Philadelphia, whose citizens generally wide awake to their interest, by way of inducement, entered into a bond of \$20,000, payable to the commissioners for the purpose of building a court house and jail, if they would locate the buildings in the last mentioned town, on the hill, where a public square had been laid off for the purpose. This bond was signed by Dexter, J. C. Farley, John Falconer, Harris and Carpenter, and myself, taking a mortgage of the lots around the square as an indemnity in case the proposition had been acceded to by the commissioners.

"From some cause or other, (I will not say prejudice or interest) 'Yankee Town' as it was sometimes called, did not get

In House News		
Honors	Honors Continued	Memorials Continued
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The Board of
The Montgomery County Historical Society



Standing l to r, Rusty Gregory, Luther Waller, Charles Nicrosi, Mary Lynne Levy, Seabie Kennamer, Helen Wells, Ray Rawlings, Frances Hill, Winston Sheehan, Jack Owen, Dick Hodges. Seated 1 to r, James Fuller, Chris Setzer, Betty Godbold, Leo Drum, Jo McGowin, and Susan Haigler. Not pictured, Luther Hill.

WOMAN'S CLUB
OF
MONTGOMERY

On December 28th a group of Board Members of the Historical Society met with Mrs. Pat Cash and Mrs. Elaine Viscardi, Officers in the Woman's Club of Montgomery, at which time they presented a very handsome check to the Society. They were most kind to share part of the proceeds of the sale of the contents of their club house with us. Their organization had elected to retire from the building that they had occupied at 572 So. Hull Street on the NW corner of Grove Street since 1939.

Their first location was in a house owned by Mrs. W. A. Bellingrath on the SE corner of Perry and Grove Streets. Mrs. Bellingrath was one of their founding members in 1927. At

one time that house also served as the Manse for the minister of the First Presbyterian Church.

As the club grew, reaching a membership of 600 members, it became necessary to find larger quarters and the city bought and converted the private residence on South Hull Street for the rent free use by the Woman's Club.

The club opened their doors to many literary and garden club meetings, parties and



Pictured at presentation: Luther Hill, Elaine Viscardi, Rusty Gregory, Seabie Kennamer, Ray Rawlings, James Fuller, Frances Hill and Pat Cash.

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receptions, providing many groups an ideal location for their gatherings.

It is unfortunate that changing times have made this vital part of the cultural life in Montgomery redundant, thus bringing to a close this landmark establishment.

It was a difficult decision, I am sure, for the ladies to give up their quarters; however, the remaining members continue to gather for regular monthly lunches at various restaurants.

The organization has been kind enough to pass all of their records over the years to the Historical Society for safe-keeping and those records will be available for research.

the court house, with all its offerings, but it was awarded to Alabama Town. Up to the fall of 1819, no court house had been built; a log building resembling an ordinary corncrib, was used as a jail. Justice's court was held in Judge Bibb's house, and the first circuit court was held in Mrs. Moulton's house, by Judge Martin, if the name be correct.

"The residents of Alabama Town, as far as I can now recollect, (in the fall of 1819) were Captain John Goss (Gause?) and family, William Goss, James Goss and family, old lady Goss and her daughter, Eliza, (who that fall married Willburn,) Major Peacock and family, Mr. Ashley and family, Mr. Jones and family, a Mr. Perry, Judge Bibb, Major Johnson, (mail contractor,) Edmondson, clerk of the court and his mother-in-law, Mrs. Moulton - an entire military and civic population - no merchant or trader in town.

"Such as I can not name of the inhabitants in Montgomery, (now called), are Dexter, Loftin, first justice in town; James Vickers, inn-keeper; Thomas and William Lewis, merchants; Major Wood, planter; Stone, (son of Judge Stone, and son-in-law of Esquire Loftin); Eades, merchant; Drs. Gullet, J. C. Farley, merchant; Carpenter, merchant; John Falconer, merchant, and first postmaster; Dr. Morrow; J. Golthwaite, merchant; John Hewett, Widow Hewett and family; Mr. Larkin, inn-keeper and farmer; Henry Farley, brother of J. C. Farley; A. M. Reynolds and family; Mr. Baker; John Belew, carpenter; R. Mosely, and a number of other families of the same name, on the Hill; Nimrod Benson, Esq.; Esquire Sims, attorney, and a dense population - I cannot recollect names.

"It will be well to mention how the town happened to change its name. As early as January, 1819, Dexter came to me after I had held a conversation with one of my other friends on the subject, and told me a proposition had been made by the interested of Alabama Town, (The Scott company,) to annex the Bluff fraction to Dexter's quarter section, which they had forfeited and since entered, and were willing to locate the court house on the line of fraction and section, each holding their own territory. Well, believing it not a very hard matter to move a court house which had never been built, but a right which that company had to pick it up and sit it down wherever they pleased, I concluded it might be more to our advantage to have one in which they were interested, than one entirely our own. All was agreed, and the union took place. Now of the name: What shall be done? It will never do to call it 'New Philadelphia' nor 'Yankee town'; either scent too strong for 'Georgy.' I have it - we will call it Montgomery, after the county; it was settled upon without a dissenting voice, and to the great satisfaction of all concerned - the name being equally dear to every American throughout the land. Thus, by the unity of interest and joint fellowship, has this town continued to grow ever since, in wealth and population.

"I could speak, if I had time, of the many pleasing associations of that day and place; but must conclude, by insisting that the palm of its early time and prosperity belongs to Andrew Dexter and his then associates."

P. S. The foregoing alludes to Dexter's quarter sect-

ion alone, up to the time stated. Walton Lucas and Mr. Allen were both doing business on the bluff fraction in 1819, close to the river.

❖

Mr. William T. Sheehan, known to his friends as "Will T." was the Editor of the Montgomery Advertiser from 1913 to 1928. The following is supplied to us by his grandson, C. Winston Sheehan, Jr. who is a Board member of the Historical Society.

WILLIAM THOMAS SHEEHAN
1874-1928

William T. Sheehan will be remembered for his innovative contributions to the newspaper field in Alabama, his unstinting political stands, and the use of his newspaper as a positive force [in] the state at large.

Soon after Sheehan's entry into journalism in 1898, he gained a reputation as an outstanding reporter for the *Birmingham Age-Herald*, the *Montgomery Journal* and the *Montgomery Advertiser*. He traveled through middle and south Alabama, writing of towns and their people. Having a deep appreciation of history, he was known for authenticity and accuracy. He never learned shorthand, but his longhand notes enabled him to write at length about the events he witnessed.

Sheehan mastered [the] newspaper under his mentor, William Wallace Screws, whom he succeeded in 1913. After acquiring one-fourth ownership of the *Advertiser*, he directed changes in typography and outreach, devoting new sections to religion, education, children

(continued on next page)

Subterranean Lake Furnishes Black Fish

Probably from Montgomery Advertiser, ca 1925

When happenings were not as fast and furious around and about Montgomery as they are at the present day, there was, and supposedly still is, a subterranean lake near the city, which was the cause of much discussion and speculation, at an earlier period.

The lake is situated east of Montgomery about five miles, its bed adjacent to the Upper Wetumpka road.

While the nearby ground is fertile farm lands, the ground over the lake bed is "shaky," and the soil will not stand the weight of a plough and horse, or rather, the jarring attendant will frighten away both man and horse. However, the soil is moist, fertile and easily worked with a hoe, and vegetables are grown there in abundance.

If a long pole is sharpened into a point and a weight tied to it, and it is then driven into the ground a short distance, the pole will "keep a-going."

One might think the lake story a mere superstition, but there is a "fish story " connected with it, which unlike the proverbial stories of the kind, instead of refuting the truth, really verifies the supposition.

If a hole is bored in the lake bed about the size of a bucket, and fishing poles set, with the lines going down in the hole, an occasional nibble with [would] be felt, and oftentimes there are fish brought up which are black in color, and have no eyes whatsoever. The fish would

seem to be of the catfish variety, it is said; from constant dwelling underground, their color has become perfectly black.

While the more enlightened residents in the vicinity of the sunken lake have never eaten the fish, catching them only from curiosity, the ignorant farm hands, white and colored, in days before hygienic laws became so prevalent, have freely partaken of the fish, which they considered choice morsels, owing to their scarcity and unusualness.

This publication is hereby offering **Ten Dollars** to anyone who will bring in a fish of the description as stated in the article above, together with positive proof that said fish was caught in the subterranean lake.

This offer made in 1925, is hereby extended and the same offer is currently good in 2012. Editor

Cooks Eggs on Ice

RADIO POWER DEMONSTRATION HEATS FRYING PAN THROUGH FROZEN WATER (ca 1925)

NEW YORK- SEPT. 16. Cooking an egg over a cake of ice by wireless was one of several demonstrations of mysterious radio power given today at the radio world's fair.

The egg was placed on a frying pan on the ice. The pan quickly became red hot through action of waves that penetrated through the ice.

The trick was done through the so-called wireless lamp, the inventor of which also lit the bulb through a man's head.

Was this the predecessor of the microwave? Ed.

William T. Sheehan continued from page 3

and women. The Eufaula native was unyielding in his great political fights: against prohibition, against Gov. C.C. Comer and for Montgomery home rule. In directing coverage of elections, he sought to make the Advertiser "the clearinghouse of political information in Alabama," by stationing men in every county to telegraph returns directly to the Montgomery office.

Sheehan suffered a paralytic stroke in 1925. By 1926, he had recovered enough to write a widely-acclaimed column titled, "Men, Events and Memories." For nearly four months, the stricken editor insightfully commented on events in the state's history, many of which he had experienced. After his death in 1928 at age 54, his successor as editor, Grover C. Hall, praised his friend's brilliance and accuracy, saying, "he refrained from bitter or vengeful writing and loathed hypocrisy."

William Thomas Sheehan was inducted into the Alabama Newspaper Hall of Honor at Auburn University on October 21, 1995. The preceeding is taken from the printed program of that ceremony.

Your editor will draw from some of these informative articles, particularly "Men, Measures and Memories" by Mr. Sheehan from time to time.

It is regrettable that this series of interesting columns ended after four months due to Mr. Sheehan's failing health. Editor

SOCIETY FORMS TWO COMMUNITY COMMITTEES

OAKWOOD CEMETERY

We have been concerned with the security of the records of burials at Oakwood Cemetery in the event of a fire or other disaster that might mean the loss of all of the burial data. Mr. Phillip Taunton, the cemetery Superintendent, has done a diligent job of protecting the files which only go back to the time of an office fire in ca 1890. He has established a computer data base as a start; however, his full duties in the maintenance and management of the large cemetery, prevent him from handling record-keeping from the past. When this vast undertaking is completed, with over 100 thousand burials, it is our plan for the information to be preserved in different physical locations such as the Historical Society and the State Archives but probably also on line so that it might be searched from anywhere in the world.

Many of these records could be re-established from the grave markings but unmarked graves would be forever lost. The committee has representatives from the Historical Society and the Montgomery Genealogy Society, Billie Cappell and Phyllis Armstrong, as well as Phillip Taunton; Mary Ann Neeley; Jessica Butler; Dick Hodges, who is the President of St. Margaret's Cemetery, the Catholic portion of Oakwood annex and James Fuller are members of the committee.

HISTORIC STRUCTURES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

A committee has been formed to work with the city in connection with the revitalization of lower Dexter Avenue. The committee's members are Bob Gamble, Sallie Millsap, Mary Ann Neeley, Ann Tidmore, David Braly and James Fuller. They have been meeting with Deputy Mayor Jeff Downes, Christie Anderson, Land Use Preservation Coordinator, and Robert Smith, Director of Planning.

They are researching the history of each building and studying the changes of each over the years to determine how that information affects the current treatment with regard to the revitalization and planned use.

FALL MEMBERSHIP MEETING HELD

Nov. 20, 2011

The fall membership meeting was held on Sunday, Nov. 20th. at the Figh-Pickett House. We were most pleased to have as our guest speaker, Ms. Elizabeth Ann Brown, the Deputy State Preservation Officer for the State of Alabama.

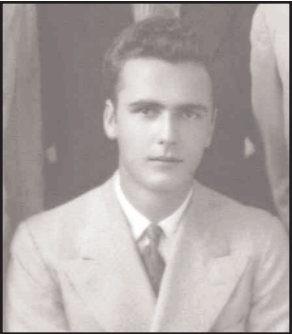
She spoke on preservation, funding and recognition of historic structures' eligibility for state and national acceptability, a designation we will strive for.

Following the program those attending enjoyed fellowship and refreshments.

The next membership meeting will be in the spring.

Hamn Family Visits Barnes School

Recently we were pleased to have the Hamn family gather at the Figh-Pickett-Barnes School House for a tour of the building where their ancestor, "J. B." Hamn attended school and graduated in the Barnes School class of 1937.



John Bostick Hamn in 1937.



Hamn family visitors: front row, Brenda Hamn, Jeff Hamn, Patty Williams, middle row: Shon Seamon, Karen Seamon, Gayle Fisher, Sydney Carroll, Martha Jane Dawson, back row: Chrysler Fisher and Clay Carroll.

Year End Donors - 2011

The membership and officers of the Historical Society sincerely appreciate these members who made contributions to our organization at the end of 2011.

It is this extra bit of funding that enables us to continue to operate and at the same time plan for the advancements and improvements in the coming year.

During these difficult times it is indeed a welcomed response.

For any who missed contributing to this campaign, your check would still be most welcome.

Thank you and A very Happy New Year.

Mr. Joseph Arbuthnot, Jr.
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Anonymous 3

Through The Years

by Mr. Peter Brannon
Feb. 2, 1936

Madigan's Corner



The location of the first house in Montgomery has been of most concern and is possibly one of the most disputed subjects of Montgomery's history. Mr. Matt Blue, when he wrote his history of Montgomery in 1878, makes a statement that, "Mr. Jonathan C. Farley erected the first framed store-house and dwelling in the Fall and Winter of 1817." He said that, "the store-house stood at the corner of Market [Dexter] and Hull Streets, the present location of Mr. T. S. Madigan's brick store." Continuing, he says, "his dwelling stood on the adjoining lot." A grandson of Mr. T. S. Madigan has recently shown me a diary and family record book, kept by his grandfather. One statement in it is: "I built brick store-house on corner of Market and Hull Streets in the Summer of 1872 and came to live in it Sept. 18, 1872 - house cost me six thousand dollars." A further pertinent reference to this point is the entry in the Madigan record of the birth of Joseph, first child of his second wife. Joseph was born in the brick house "corner Market and Hull Streets built by T. S. Madigan." This Joseph was the son of Bridget McIntyre, Mr. Madigan's second wife, and he was born at 12 o'clock noon, May 4, 1875. Mr. Moses McIntyre and wife were sponsors.

John Falconer, the assignee of Andrew Dexter, under

date of July 25, 1821, conveyed the SW quarter of Section 7, T. 16, R. 18, to Joseph C. Sheffield. On lot 27 of that tract was the store of Carpenter and Farley, and on lot 28 was the residence of Mr. Farley. Lot 28 was East of lot 27. As the reader will note further along, the store site was the one about which we are most concerned. Joseph Sheffield, by a conveyance recorded in Deed Book F, Old Series, page 187, sold these lots 27 and 28, (and presumably the improvement thereon) to Edward Hanrick. Such of my readers as can "call back" (in their memories) 100 years, will recall that Horseshoe Ned," the warm friend of Gen. Thomas Woodward, was a North Carolinian, a bachelor, a pioneer settler in Montgomery, whose connection with the early life of the place is a more than ordinary and truly a fascinating story.

Others concerned with the corner who appear in the records in the Montgomery County Court House, which have been transcribed for me by Mr. C. E. Wilson, are the Hon. George Goldthwaite, George Cowles and William Cowles. And lastly, after the property went out of the hands of Mr. Madigan's estate, that rather interesting little gentlemen, Prof. Sam Starke owned it.

OTHER EARLY STORE SITES

Blue says that the first merchants chose the four squares on Market Street below Capitol Square for the original sites of their places of business. The earliest merchants were Messrs. Klincke and Dice, Jonathan C. Farley, Daniel Carpenter, John Falconer and Eads and Gullett. The first postoffice was about a square east of Madigan's corner, and said by Blue to be just west of Capitol Square. Mr. John Falconer had his postoffice in his store. In 1822 he moved the office across the street to the store owned and operated by Mr. Isaac Falconer and himself. I am informed by one of the leading abstractors in the City of Montgomery that there are no records to indicate that Mr. John Falconer owned any lots on either of the south corners of Market and Hull Streets, but Isaac, whose relatives still live in Montgomery, did own lots here in the vicinity of the present Dexter Hotel. The postoffice, Mr. John Falconer still being postmaster, was moved to the east side of Commerce Street in 1831, and it was in the last decade of the 1800's before the office ever got back on old Market Street, now Dexter Avenue.

MR. MADIGAN

Thomas Sarsfield Madigan was married to Miss Caty Gibbins, at St. Peter's Church on May 1, 1861, at 8 o'clock, P.M., by the Rev. A. D. Pelecier. Denis Patrick Madigan, an only child, was born July 19, 1862, at 6 o'clock in the afternoon, in a small cottage house on the corner of Columbus and McDonough Streets. He was baptized by Father Pelecier. Mrs. Madigan died Oct. 29, (1872).

She was 27 years of age. The second wife of Mr. Madigan (Bridget McIntyre) was married to him by the Rev. D. Manney, at St. Peter's Church, July 20, 1874, at 6 O'clock in the afternoon. A very interesting historical statement is entered in Mr. Madigan's record to the effect that both priests "above named," (he means the Rev. A. D. Pelecier and the Rev. D. Manney), were consecrated bishops on Dec. 8, 1876, in Mobile, by Bishop Quinlan. The Right Rev. John Quinlan was the second bishop of the Diocese of Mobile.

Thomas Madigan was born in Limerick, Ireland, in November, 1834. He died in Montgomery at his residence on the corner of "Hull and Market" Streets, on the morning of June 11, 1903. This latter entry in the family record is indeed interesting, in that the date, 1903, is subsequent to the change of the name "Market" Street, but at least the family was so thinking of it. Mr. Madigan left his home in Ireland on Hallowe'en night, 1849, and reached America at New Orleans. He came to the City of Montgomery on the 15th day of January, 1850. The old man, in a reminiscent mood, has made other entries in his note book. The date of Feb. 13, 1899, is a contribution to the weather report. He says "the coldest day ever known in Montgomery, Alabama, the thermometer was down to five degrees below zero. My old neighbor and countryman, James O'Sullivan, was buried same morning."

The Montgomery Advertiser, under date of Dec. 14, (1899) has a short statement recounting the visit of Michael Madigan to his brother here. As the newspapers, even 35 years ago were prone to do, the wording is such that without the entry in Mr. Madigan's diary, it would be impossible to find the date. Thomas does enter that "My

brother, Michael Madigan, came to visit me on the night of Dec. 12, 1899, on the 9:20 train, from Cleveland, Ohio, the first time we met in 50 years. He went back home on the ninth of January, 1900." In the account in *The Advertiser*, the statement is made that Thomas received a letter in which Michael said he was coming to visit him and he, Thomas, "went to the depot to meet him, but not seeing anyone he knew, he went back home and was about to retire, when there was a knock the on door, and on opening it there stood his brother, he had not seen in such a long time, that he did not recognize him at the depot. Their meeting was a very touching one."

Since the very earliest of my interest in Montgomery's history, I have always known that the brick store, Hick's Antique Shop,[NE corner] was "Madigan's Store," and I have been told that the small frame addition to the rear of the adjacent "Linaham" brick store, was the first house in Montgomery. [This would have been the NE corner of Dexter and Hull where in 2012 the Alabama State Bar Assoc. building is located.] Perhaps this small frame addition at the end of the little brick store is of the timbers or, perhaps, a part of, Farley's old building. This surmise is one of possibility, though this is not proven. The squares adjacent, to Hull and Market Streets have had a more than interesting connection with Montgomery's early history.

Among the family relics is a A.S.M.A. Badge. This was Mr. Madigan's official badge - he was on the Committee on Grounds-worn by him at the time of Jefferson Davis's visit, when the corner stone of the Soldier's Monument was laid. I have always been told that the monument was dedicated on April 26, 1886. The wording on the badge

reads, "April 27 and 28 and 29, 1886."

MONTGOMERY'S FIRST NEWSPAPER

The first issue of The *Montgomery Republican*, the newspaper published by Jonathan Battelle, appeared Jan. 6, 1821, and it was printed on a press in the rear of the store-house of Carpenter and Farley, which was on this identical Madigan's corner. Mr. Battelle, a native of Boston and a member of the Alabama Company, (that company which founded the Western section of the present Montgomery) hauled his printing press, type, cases and fixtures from Savannah, to which place they were shipped by boat, over-land to Montgomery, by the Federal Road, and they reached here in 1820. The original house of public entertainment, as they called hotels in that day, was a double-log cabin on the same side of the street above the "Farley's Corner" (Madigan's Corner) and at the location of the west side of the Scottish Rite Temple. Here James Vickers, in lot 31, conducted a three dollar a day hostelry.

WHY NOT MARK THE SITE

Inasmuch as there can be no doubt that this point, so near the historic State Capitol Building, is the beginning of Montgomery, it is certainly fitting to suggest, that some form of a marker be set up to commemorate that fact. A boulder, super-imposed by a bronze tablet, is my conception of both a rugged, ever-lasting monument, and a dignified way of telling the story. There are those who argue that the iniquities of the world have so lately been manifested to the extent that it is dangerous to mark historic

Montgomery Museum of History

A few of the Documents, Photographs, Books and Artifacts donated by members and friends to the future Montgomery Museum of History.
Should you see an item below that reminds you of something you might like to donate, please give us a call.
Thank you.

Donor

Mrs. Elizabeth Nicrosi Robison

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Mr. Wm. R. Rusty Gregory

Mr. Robert Armstrong

Archival Donation

A cartoon book of the Alabama Legislature of 1927. Cartoons drawn by Frank Spangler, Sr. were published in the Montgomery Advertiser during Gov. Bibb Graves Administration.

Collection of cards, letters and telegrams pertaining to Barnes School and Highland Home School; menus for The Ranch and Sahara; other memorabilia related to Catoma St. Church of Christ, Kiwanis Club, Ramer High School and Boy's High School.

A collection of mementos of her senior class of 1955 at Lanier High School including reunion activities.

A collection of photographs of the Marcus family including some from the WW I period. Her grandfather was Samuel Marcus of "Marcus, The Taylor" whose shop was located in the Greystone Hotel on the Bibb St. side for many years.

His book: *Prospecting and Selling, From a Fishing Hole to a Pot of Gold*, and a book by Robert H. Boyle, Bass Boss, *The Inspiring Story of Ray Scott and the Sportfishing Industry He Created*.

Photographs of the current status of the imaginary town of "Spectra" at Jackson Lake, built as a movie set for "Big Fish" in 2003.

Register for organization: "Chief and Brothers of Chickasaw League."

WW II deck of cards; embossing mallet; pair of nylon stockings and kit for repairing stockings.

Photograph of judges, lawyers and employees of the Montgomery Co. Court House.

Handmade tapestry and a pair of pince-nez eyeglasses.

Permission to copy family and business papers and photographs of W. A. Weiss & Son, Jewelers and Opticians, at one time one of Montgomery's oldest businesses.

A 50 inch Mitsubishi television that will be valuable for use with a Power Point computer presentation by speakers.

A program of the Major Lemuel P. Montgomery Commemoration in 1972 at the time he was re-intered at Horseshoe Bend National Military Park where he had died in 1814.

Leo Jacob Drum, Jr.

The word unique does not seem to be sufficiently descriptive for a person like Leo Drum. At the age of 96 he still retained his broad knowledge on so many subjects and the opportunity to gather information from him was to be cherished.

He graduated from Barnes School for Boys in the class of 1931, over 80 years ago. He entered the Georgia School of Technology and studied mechanical engineering, finishing at the top of his class.



Barnes Boy,
Leo Drum

Following employment with York Air Conditioning Co. he returned to Montgomery to organize his own firm, Capital Refrigeration Co., Inc., specializing in commercial clients for heating and air conditioning. He continued to operate the business until it was sold in 1991.

It was a pleasure to have him join the Board of the Montgomery County Historical Society few years ago. He never missed a meeting and contributed to discussions regarding the business and transactions of the Society.

It was a distinct pleasure to have his presence and advice and we will miss him. He was a man of exceptional intelligence. The mould has been broken.



Leo Drum
1966

"Now The Rest of The Story" Major L. P. Montgomery

In our July issue was an account of the moving of the body of poor Maj. Lemuel P. Montgomery, for whom our county is named, from its resting place at Houseshoe Bend. It was there that he was killed in the famous battle led by Gen. Andrew Jackson against the Creek Indian nation in 1814.

The decision was made in 1839 to disinter and move his body to Dudleyville, then the county seat in the northern part of Tallapoosa County.

In the years that have passed, the population of Dudleyville moved from a small community to a population of none.

A group of interested citizens from Tallapoosa County, most likely lead by Judge C. J. Jack Coley of Alex City, who presided at the Commemorative Program, determined that the Major should never have been moved and his place should be

in the spot that he so valiantly gave his life.

Gen. Andrew Jackson who lead the charges against the Indian defenses considered Major Montgomery one of his most promising officers. When the battle was ended, Jackson stood over the Major's body and wept. He exclaimed, "I have lost the flower of my army!"

On June 11, 1972 a detail from the of National Muzzle-loading Rifle Association including Robert Armstrong, Don Holley, Larry Reynolds and Paul Davidson served as honor guards and assisted in moving the Major back to the place of his death.

Following the disinterment by the guards, an assembly of dignitaries and interested persons at the Horseshoe Bend National Park including representatives from organizations such as the DAR, Women's Army Corps Band, the Tallapoosa Historical Society, Department of the Interior and the National Park Service heard Sen. John Sparkman and Rep. Bill Nichols tell the audience of a thousand, gathered for the occasion, of the importance of the success of that battle and how it opened up the expansion of the United States into the West meaning Alabama and beyond. The Major's remains were again on the battlefield where he is recorded as being the first man killed as he charged over the Creek breastworks.

There have been bits of Maj. Montgomery scattered about over Tallapoosa County but hopefully, come Judgement Day he can gather himself together for the occasion. In the meantime, let's hope he can rest in peace in one place.

Thank you to Robert Armstrong for this information.

sites with bronze tablets, but I believe that, inasmuch as that spot is just under the dome of the Capitol, in a stone's throw of the heart of the city, only a few feet from the church, and on the principal street, let us hope that no thief will steal the piece of bronze off the boulder in order that he may sell it to some junk shop for \$5.

Obviously it is a coincidence that on this ancient site today there should be an antique shop. Such, however, is the case.



George Todd is Getting Restless About the Paving

Probably from
The Montgomery Advertiser Aug. 19, 1925

George Todd of Capitol Heights, is getting restless about the paving on Madison avenue. In fact, he is afraid the paving will be delayed to the point where Capitol Heights will be a sea of mud again this winter. He wants action and he wants it now. In a letter to the conductor of the Passing Throng, Mr. Todd makes the following observations:

"On May 25 I wrote an article for your paper which you so generously published asking why the streets of Capitol Heights were not being paved. The bonds have been sold I understand and the sewer and water connections have been made and the streets

are in a bad shape after being continuously torn up. Madison avenue is rougher today than Commerce street and Dexter avenue and that's saying something about being rough.

"There are some nice residences in Capitol Heights. Two churches and one of the best schools in the county are within its limits but the streets are so rough that it's no pleasure to ride over them in any direction.

"Why can't Mayor Heustess and his town council hurry the paving up a little? The rainy season will be on in a month or two and we will have another 'sea of mud' to paddle through."



Old Cemetery Westcott Plantation

from *Montgomery Advertiser*
date unknown. probably 1920s

Three miles southwest of Montgomery, at the forks of the Mobile and Hayneville roads, is a burying ground known as Westcott's graveyard. Around the lot is a high wall of brick, which is crumbling with age, the graveyard being little used today for a burying ground by white persons.

If one glances within, there are the relics of old-time flower gardens, well cared for, of the kind that were wont to surround the resting places of a former generation. Monuments of an older period also show that the little cemetery

was once the resting place of numbers of prominent families. It was on the site of the old cemetery that the first Methodist church built in Montgomery county once stood. It was a log building and was once the house of worship for the families of the wealthy planters, who lived in that vicinity.

The lot on which it was built was donated by David Westcott, wealthy planter, who coming to Montgomery with a number of others from South Carolina in covered wagons in 1819, purchased a large tract of land in the vicinity of the Mobile road, which was the family home for generations. A large portion of the original house site is still owned by descendents.

The little log church was commonly called Westcott's meeting house, and as was the custom, at an early period, the adjacent lot became the church yard.

A number of years afterwards when the Court Street Methodist church was first built, a little frame structure on its present site, the entire congregation of the little log church became identified with the town church; and Westcotts meeting place was torn down, the church yard still continuing to be a burial place for the dead.

It is now practically unused as a graveyard by the white population and a number of the bodies of those once resting there have been reinterred in other cemeteries.

The portion reserved for the colored people still continues to be used for burying purposes at the present time.



Leisure Time in Montgomery

Attributed to Miss Sarah Wyman

If old buildings, old homes, old gardens could speak, what wonderful tales they could tell! Somehow time seems to throw a glamour of mystery and charm over the men and women and customs of the long ago.

From the year 1821 when the small town of Montgomery celebrated its first ball to this year of (1939 ?) when the city of Montgomery danced the New Year in at the brilliant M. O. R. ball, Montgomery had always had a delightful, gay social life. Many of the beautiful old homes that have gone down in the march of progress were the scenes of real dramas and fascinating romances.

Before the War Between the States there were two social clubs in Montgomery, the Bachelors and the Benedicts. When a member of the Bachelors married, he automatically became a member of the Benedicts. They had their club meetings and their balls in Estelle Hall where Silver's [Green's] store now stands. The last meeting of the Bachelors took place in 1861 as the boys were leaving for war. All had gone except the secretary, Leon Wyman. He went alone to Estelle Hall, called the meeting to order with only himself to answer the roll call, read the minutes, and then left to fight with Lee in Virginia. Many of those gay young Bachelors never returned.

During the dark days of the war and the even darker days of reconstruction, there was little social life in Montgomery but in the late 70's and the early 80's there was a revival of social activity and a new social club, the Saxons, came into being.

They, too, met in Estelle Hall. An old newspaper gives an account of a beautiful ball given there in the early 80's with all the debutantes and many visiting belles present. Many of that gay company of young people are today the honored and beloved citizens of Montgomery whose names are familiar to us all-Goldthwaite, Durr, Stringfellow, Gayle, Somerville, Sayre. *The Advertiser* gave the girls' costumes in detail and did not fail to deck each one in diamonds. One charming belle, Kate Durr, according to the account, wore white cashmere, daisies and diamonds; another, Lina Somerville, was gowned in garnet silk, lace, pink feathers and diamonds. Have you imagination enough to picture those costumes?

Another important social factor in the life of Montgomery during the 70's and 80's was the volunteer fire department which not only did splendid work but was also a very fashionable organization. The roster of that old fire company included the name of every prominent citizen of that day.

It was composed of various units, each having its own club room. One was opposite the Bell Building on Lee Street and another was over the old jail that used to stand on the corner of Madison and Perry. Every spring they gave their annual parade when the various units vied with each other in decorating their engines.

The members marched in the parade, each carrying in his hand a bouquet of garden flowers. Since they wore bright red helmets, it was quite a gorgeous spectacle. All along the streets

down which they marched were placed at certain intervals barrels of lemonade and it was a coveted honor for the popular girls of that day to serve the iced drinks with long handled dip-pers (no dinky little paper cups for them) but, out of generous gourds and stylish coconut dip-pers with silver rims, drank the thirsty marching fire boys.

An old Southern custom, New Years. Calling, a custom which I regret has now passed out, was at its height during the 80's. Most of the hospitable homes were open on New Year's Day and the beaus [beaux] of the town, all dressed up, went calling in carriages from house to house where eggnog, cake, syllabub and drinks more potent were served. After making the rounds, a carriage was a real necessity.

The Cow Bellions were another social group that made merry at Christmas time. They went up and down the streets on Christmas Eve, ringing cow bells and blowing horns. This was in the day of big yards when nearly every home had its cow with an available bell. When the Cow Bellions stopped in front of a house with their serenade, they were always invited in for refreshments - then on to the next.

As early as 1822 Montgomery had her Little Theatre for Blue's History gives the information that in the fall of 1822 the Thespian Society was organized and gave its first performance on the night of December 17th at the Mont-gomery Hotel. On this occasion Shakespeare's *Julius Caesar* was produced - quite an undertaking for amateurs. The leading roles were taken by Benjamin Fitzpatrick, John Edmondson, Henry Goldthwaite, and Daniel Sayre. Following the Shakes-pearian tradition, no women appeared in the cast.

The Old Cannon on Capitol Hill

The Montgomery Advertiser
April 7, 1926
from Mr. Geo. Todd's scrapbook

Guarding the main entrance to the capitol grounds (figuratively speaking) is a formidable looking cannon, its muzzle pointing west down Dexter avenue.

Many stories cling to the old landmark, which has been in Montgomery as long as the recollection of most of the citizens. According to G. M. Powell, who remembers when the cannon was brought here, the story goes:

In North Montgomery, on Chandler street, at the water's edge, near the old Confederate shovel factory, a steamship was built and named the Montgomery. It was floated down the river to a point near the present wharf to be manned. The cannon now in [on] the capitol grounds had been previously brought from Selma, where there was an ammunition factory. It was expected to place the cannon on the ship, with the assistance of the machinery and equipment of the old Confederate roller mills, then on Water street (now traversed by the railroad tracks, about where the the Union Station car shed is today.)

The land all about the roller mills was marshy from the water of the river and the lack of a drainage system at that time.

The machinery was not heavy enough to support the cannon, which fell from the rolling trucks and became imbedded in the marshy land, from which it could not be extricated.



The steamship was then carried to Selma, rechristened the Texas, manned there and it was later sunk by Admiral Farragut in the Mobile bay. To go back to the cannon. It lay in the marshy slough from about 1862 until 1874, when Houston was elected governor of Alabama, and the state was finally redeemed from republican rule, following the civil war.

There was never more enthusiasm than displayed here on the day when Houston took the oath of office, November 24, 1874. It was planned as a special demonstration to fire the long unused cannon, which with the assistance of machinery from a local factory, was extricated from its long resting place

and carried to North Montgomery, where it was fired, but only once, refusing to repeat.

It was later carried to the capitol grounds and placed in the northeast corner, where it remained for over 20 years, becoming imbedded there in the ground almost up to the muzzle. When Hobson secured the flag staff from the battleship, Maine, of Spanish war fame, as a trophy for Alabama, the cannon was raised from its long resting place and placed as a silent sentinel on capitol hill, just east of the main entrance to the grounds.



As a child I remember my parents taking me on early morning walks that often would include the Capitol grounds. It was great sport to climb on the old cannon and sit there astraddle. Next to the cannon were two stacks of cannon balls arranged in a pyramid, and like the cannon, on a base of Belgian blocks maybe 3 or 4 feet square and of the same height. They were welded together probably, since they were secure.

Perhaps one of our readers might remember the true story about what happened to the cannon, the cannon balls and probably the wrought iron fence that was along the Bainbridge Street side of the Capitol grounds. It is possible that all of the above were donated to the scrap iron drive during World War II. Also I believe that the lamp posts and fence at the old First Presbyterian Church on Adams Street and maybe St. John's Episcopal Church made a similar contribution to the war effort.

If you have the clear story of became of this monument, we would appreciate a call. Perhaps Ed Bridges or Bob Bradley of Archives and History might have a clue.

Editor

Historical Society Honored Military Veterans

On November 11th, 2011

In the afternoon of November the 11th the Historical Society held an open house to honor veteran society members of the military service and their guests. Chairman of the event was Mr. Seabie Kennamer and the idea was Jo McGowin's. The suggestion was made that anyone who could still get into their uniform would be welcomed to wear it to the occasion. Stanley Marks and Ben Williams were two who managed to do so.

It was a definite treat to hear a few of the veterans tell something of their experiences in their respective branches of the service. Among them were: John C. Tyson; Jim Levy; Ben Williams; Jack McLemore; Dubo Harper and Jim Drummond. Others attending were: Lon Conner; John H. Napier; Nancy Buzard; Leo Drum; Ted Parker; Truman Hobbs; Ewell Green; Mary Keast; Christopher Keast; Chuck Cleveland; Dave Rees; Joe Lacey; Frank McCorkle, Speck Hughes; Jay Ott; John Scott; George Bubber Bailey; Winston Sheehan; Charles Nicrosi and John "Bubba" Trotman.

Mr. Steve Jones, director of the Emergency Management Agency represented the City of Montgomery. He delivered an excellent message of pride and appreciation to the assembled group and then lead them in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Gen. Jim Drummond used the occasion to present to Leo Drum a bronze metal of the Ruptured Duck that had been presented to Jim's father at the time he was discharged from the army after WW II. This honor was very special to Leo, who had himself received the Bronze Star for Meritorious Service in WW II.

The Society was pleased to recognize those who have devoted so much to keep our country free and safe. Following the program, refreshments were served.

Letters have been sent to those who were at the recognition program asking if they would each like to attend a private individual meeting at the Figh-Pickett House to recount their memories and experiences in the military so that these might be recorded and documented as part of our record of America's contribution to freedom. This activity will take place early in 2012. Those who were not able to attend are also invited and we will make an appointment for each interview. Please contact us to be included in this program.



Above: Charles Carpenter, Frank McCorkle, Leo Drum and Jim Drummond.

Below: Bubber Bailey, Dubo Harper and Lon Conner.



John C. Tyson and Jim Levy.

WORK IS BEING DONE
NOW TO SET UP THE VETERANS
ORAL HISTORY PROGRAM BY
VOLUNTEERS AT THE
HISTORICAL SOCIETY AND WE
HOPE TO BE UNDERWAY IN THE
NEXT FEW MONTHS.

THIS IS A GREAT OPPOR-
TUNITY FOR OUR VETERANS TO
SHARE THEIR EXPERIENCES AND
FOR US TO CREATE A RECORD.

During the spring of that year Mr. Judah, "a talented Virginian" visited the town and assisted the Thespians in several entertainments at the Globe Tavern.

In the 80's and 90's the chief diversion in the summer were picnics, and picnics were picnics in those days, all day affairs calling for elaborate preparations. Each Sunday School gave its own picnic and there was great rivalry as to which could set the most bounteous table. In one of my grandmother's letters of 1880 she describes a basket which she had just packed. It contained a ham, three fried chickens, several loaves of homemade bread, beaten biscuit, potato salad, lemon tarts, one pound cake, one loaf cake, one chocolate cake, besides canned meat and pickles. No wonder it took the city omnibus (whatever that vehicle may have been) and a hack to carry the family plus the picnic basket to the train, for in those days every one went to the picnic on the train, the destination being Whitehall or Jackson's Lake.

Though the Sunday School picnics were popular, the most eagerly sought for invitations were to the Shooting Club picnics which were annual affairs given at Jackson's Lake. All night long the fires in the pits were blazing to prepare the barbecue which was always served but the most delectable was the famous pigeon stew.

With the coming of the electric cars another summer enjoyment was trolley car riding which for thrills was the nearest approach to the automobile of today. After an exciting ride around the "belt" or out to Pickett's Springs, the young people stopped at some house for refreshments or to dance on the Winter lawn where Judge Winter for the enjoyment of the

young people, though rather to the detriment of his spacious lawn, had built a platform for dancing. Here lighted by a few Chinese lanterns and the stars, young Montgomery danced merrily to the tunes of a Negro band.

During the "Gay Nineties" Montgomery's social life was dominated by the Joi de Vie Club, the most exclusive and best known club in the history of Montgomery - a club which was destined to rule social life for a decade. Their rooms were on North Perry Street next to the old Montgomery Theatre. Mr. Edwin H. Lewis, the leader and social arbiter of the club during its whole life, had very strict ideas of propriety.

While punch flowed freely for the male dancers, very, very few women indulged and woe to the debutante who dared to go near the punch bowl, her first Joi de Vie German would probably be her last.

Just at the close of the century, a group of very young men, many of whom are now grandfathers, organized the Southland Club. It had a short but happy career, for like the Joi de Vie, it was strictly a dancing club, and since Montgomery was not large enough to support two clubs drawing from the same social set, the two united. The name Joi de Vie was retained since it was the older club but as a compromise the ball rooms of the Southland were used. These were over Silver's store and were reached, by an iron staircase from the outside of the building.

Montgomery was now outgrowing her small town status and like most cities felt the need of a down town club for men so the Beauvoir was organized with Mr. W. K. Pelzer as first president. It occupied the old Murphy house, now the

home of the Elks Club. It soon absorbed the old Joi de Vie and the Knox Mansion on Perry Street became the home of the united clubs with General Robert Ligon as president. The next move was to the top floor of the Bell Building. Mr. Charles P. Gunter and General Ligon served as presidents until four years ago when it united with the Country Club. Although it still maintains down town rooms for men, the gathering place for social life of Montgomery today is the Beauvoir Country Club.

The Country club is an old organization for as early as the nineties Montgomery was up to date enough to have a country club with a nine hole golf course. Mr. Fred Fiske was the first president. The building (it couldn't be dignified by the name of clubhouse) was a tiny, white two roomed cottage standing where Cloverdale Road now crosses Felder, the Yost home being built on the tennis courts. Here the girls in their long skirts and big puffed sleeves played tennis or served tea after the games. A few of the most daring ones even tried golf. Though handicapped by their sweeping skirts, they managed to get a great deal of pleasure out of the game, probably because it was something new under the sun. The golf links occupied what is now old Cloverdale and as this property soon became very valuable, the club bought the land on the Narrow Lane Road. The first clubhouse was on the north side of the Carter Hill Road but when it burned about ten or twelve years ago, the present luxurious clubhouse was built. With its ball room, private dining rooms, card rooms, swimming pool and cocktail lounge what a contrast to the little cottage which some of us still remember.

The tearing down of the old Standard Club on Mont-

gomery Street reminds us that this club too has played a definite part in the social life of Montgomery. It was organized in 1872 and the first club rooms were on Bibb Street above where the Western Union has its offices. When the club house, which has just been torn down was built, it was considered the acme of spaciousness and luxury. Now it has gone, for following the trend of the times, the Standard Club and the country club have united and the center of Jewish social life is now the Standard Country Club.

We have seen Montgomery grow from a small town to a big city of ___ people and with its growth there has come a great change in its social life. No longer is society dominated by one social group but society today is made up of many groups, each just as important as the old social order and each contributing a definite part in making Montgomery what she is today - a city of gracious living.

The following is a letter written by a member of the Wyman family who was visiting in Montgomery. It was written to a relative back at her home in the North. Miss Sadie Wyman, whom many of our members remember as an outstanding English teacher at Baldwin Junior High School in the 1940s was a member of this Wyman family.
Editor

Montgomery, Alabama
Oct. 24, 1835

Dear Brother P. (Brother-in-law, Edmund Parker, Husband of Hannah Wyman)

I have not forgotten my promise of writing although I have not fulfilled it at the time

for I believe I promised to write from New York before I started for this dreary desolate waste of pine trees and sand hills, as the country seems to be made of nothing besides. I can easily conceive of your thinking to yourself perhaps aloud also that I am not very much pleased with the appearance of things; you are perfectly right in such a conclusion if such it is. But perhaps you will say I have not been here long enough to judge of the country, but from the shores of Carolina to this place there is nought but one continual range of pine woods; and I believe one would find it the same as far as the south shores of South American! I really did not know there was so much pine wood in all the world. I did think that our own New England States were so beautiful. I have been here quite long enough to be satisfied that we live in Paradise at the North. With the people I am rather pleased than otherwise inasmuch as they bestow so much attention upon me. You know I was always fond of attention. I think however there is the most extravagance among the people that I ever saw in any place where I have been. I declare one would want a fortune to begin to live here. It is a fashion amongst the ladies here to call on another lady as soon as she comes into the place provided she is "fashionable", and I think or "reckon" you would be amused to see them dressed in satins and silks and everything besides that is rich and costly, some with jewelry to the amount of two or three hundred dollars, flocking to see the "fashionable" Miss W. from the North. I could not help laughing in my sleeve as the saying is at the mistake they were labouring under, for instead of a fashionable lady they beheld a country girl as big as two of any of them. But then

I kept up the deception and put on as much dignity and as many airs as I could possibly, so they will never know but that I am one of the fashionists. On the whole I am not very much pleased with the South altho my conscience accuses me hard while I am writing it for I am almost hourly answering numerous inquiries of "How are you pleased with Montgomery?" "Very much pleased" will be my answer, but all the time saying to myself, "I would not live here for all the riches of the place". I was very much pleased with Brother's wife. I think she is as fine a woman as I ever met with. She is not one of the little fashionable creatures, made for show, but a woman of good mind, intellectual, educated and refined altogether different from what I had expected. I think as far as I have become acquainted with her, and I have been here long enough to judge, I think that she is almost a faultless person. I am certain she is one that would please you. I think you must come out and see us all in the month of May when you come to Baltimore. It will be a good part of the way here when you get there. If you will I shall certainly be ready to return home with you, according to my promise when I left home. The time indeed seems very long, to look forward until Spring before I return. I am really homesick when I think of it. I do not allow myself to think often about it and I cannot say anything about it to Brother or Sister Mary, and indeed I ought not to for they are doing everything in their power to make me enjoy myself. It would seem like ingratitude for me to complain of being homesick. We have a beautiful carriage and pair of grays, very like your handsome ones only a little smaller, and any time I want to ride all I have to do is just to say to the black,

"Get the carriage; I wish to ride", and I am obeyed. And then to have two or three others waiting on me and calling me Mistress Lydia - You don't know how important I have grown. I have, without joking, however, no less than three black girls to wait upon me and do anything I ask them, and I find them none too many sometimes. They are not motivated so that one must be severe in order to get anything done.

You don't know how anxious I am to hear from home. It is now two months since I left W. and I have not heard a word since. I hope there are letters on the way. I have written a number of letters since I left New York and I should think it was time to receive some answers soon. I hope you will not fail to write soon as convenient after you receive this. I think we have got some fine boys in Brother J.'s family and as smart as you ever see anywhere. They would please you I think. They are often talking about their uncles and aunts at the North and about going there to live. I hope they will surely. It is a very poor place to bring up children in Montgomery, there is so much of everything going here and J. is so much engaged he hardly sees them more than once a day. They bid fair to make smart men if only properly managed. If one wishes to make money he had better come here for this seems to be the place to make it by the handfuls. There are no poor people here seemingly and indeed there are but few, but one could live on half at the North that they could here, everything is so very expensive. I should rather live there at any rate. There is nothing to spend one's money for but dress and to make a show. I consider that of trifling importance compared with some other things. I have filled my paper with something, I cannot

tell what. You will excuse all uninteresting parts.

From Your affectionate sister,
L.S.W.

Gunter Orders Straw Hats Fed to Hungry Stock

ca 1925

Straw hats are banned on the streets of Montgomery beginning with Tuesday morning. Tuesday is the regular 15th of September anti-straw hat day and persons found with straw hats will be liable to attacks from all cows found roaming the streets on that day and must defend themselves without recourse to the guardians of the law. All of this is made necessary by the annual proclamation of Mayor Gunter barring straw hats.

His proclamation follows: "Whereas the weather man has been dry and the pastures are burned up and the supply of roughage for the cows, mules, and horses, as well as goats and sheep, has been exhausted, now therefore I, Mayor W. A. Gunter, Jr., do hereby proclaim that these animals will be authorized to attack anyone found wearing a straw hat on the streets today or hereafter and such citizens are at their own peril and must defend themselves without recourse to the police department or other guardians of the law."

(Signed) W. A. Gunter, Jr., Mayor.

Mayor Wears Straw Hat Despite Proclamation

ca 1925

A proclamation issued on yesterday by Mayor Gunter advising all persons to refrain from wearing straw hats after last evening under penalty of having the cows eat them up, this morning appeared in his office wearing his season's straw, and stated to reporters that he was going to risk the cow's designs upon his headgear until next pay-day came around, through force of necessity.



This all came from the custom of business men all wearing hats every day. The time was selected for the change over from felts to straw or the reverse based on the season.

Editor

Welcome New Members

Mr. & Mrs. William G. Faulkner

Mr. Lyle Fields

Mr. & Mrs. Richard B. Garrett

Mr. & Mrs. John Huff

Mr. John Ingle

Mr. & Mrs. Larry McLemore

Mr. D. E. Phillips, Jr.